Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device comprising:

a liquid crystal layer disposed between a pair of substrates facing each other; and

inorganic alignment layers disposed on a surface of a liquid crystal layer side of the pair of the substrates;

wherein the range of average pre-tilt angle θ of liquid crystal molecules 50a in the liquid crystal layer is 5 degrees $\leq \theta \leq$ 20 degrees; and

twist angle φ of the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer, cell gap d, and helical pitch P of the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer satisfy the relationship of $(0.6 / 360)\ \varphi < d/P < (1.4 / 360)\ \varphi$.

2. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device according to claim 1, wherein:

the inorganic alignment layers are made of two layers of oblique evaporation layers which have columnar structures of an inorganic material slanting in different directions;

azimuth angle directions of the slanting direction of the columnar structures of the inorganic material forming both oblique evaporation layers are different inside the plane of the substrate.

3. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device comprising:

a liquid crystal layer disposed between a pair of substrates facing each other;

inorganic alignment layers disposed on a surface of a liquid crystal layer side of the pair of the substrates;

wherein the range of average pre-tilt angle $\theta$of liquid crystal molecules 50a of the liquid crystal layer is θ>20 degrees; and

twist angle φ of the liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer, cell gap d, and helical pitch P of the liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer satisfy the relationship of $(0.8 / 360) \varphi < d/P < (1.6 / 360) \varphi$.

4. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device according to claim 3, wherein the alignment layers are made of oblique evaporation layer which are columnar structure of inorganic material slanting in different directions.

5. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device according to claim 1, wherein the alignment layers are oblique evaporation layers made of silicon oxide.

6. (Previously Presented) A projection display device, provided with a liquid crystal device according to claim 1, comprising:

a light source for emitting light;

the liquid crystal device which modulates the light emitted from the light source; and

a magnifying projection optical system which magnifies the light modulated by the liquid crystal device and projects the light on a projection plane.

7. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device comprising:

a liquid crystal layer disposed between a pair of substrates facing each other;

an underlayer having a gap section;

inorganic alignment layers disposed on a surface of a liquid crystal layer side of the pair of the substrates, and formed above the underlayer~~having the gap section~~ comprising a first inorganic oblique evaporation layer and a second inorganic oblique evaporation layer formed in an area close to the gap section ~~and on~~ adjacent the first inorganic oblique evaporation layer;

~~an underlayer of at least one of the inorganic alignment layers having gap section;~~

wherein the first and the second inorganic oblique evaporation layers are made of slant columnar structure of inorganic material; and

wherein azimuth angle directions of slanting direction of columnar structure of inorganic material constructing both the first and the second oblique evaporation layers are different inside the plane of the substrate.

8. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device comprising:

a liquid crystal layer disposed between a pair of substrates facing each other;

a plurality of pixel electrodes disposed in a matrix, a plurality of switching devices which drive the plurality of the pixel electrode, a plurality of data lines and a plurality of scanning lines connected respectively to the plurality of the switching devices are provided on either one of the pair of substrates;

facing electrodes provided on the other substrate;

inorganic alignment layers provided respectively on the surface of the liquid crystal side of the pair of substrates;

an underlayer of at least either one of an inorganic alignment layer on the side of which the switching device is provided has a gap section on its surface;

the inorganic alignment layers formed on the underlayer having the gap section, comprising a first inorganic oblique evaporation layer and a second inorganic oblique evaporation layer formed in an area close to the gap section and on the first inorganic oblique evaporation layer;

the first and the second inorganic oblique evaporation layers comprise slanted columnar structures of an inorganic material;

azimuth angle directions of slanting directions of columnar structures of inorganic materials constructing both the first and the second oblique evaporation layers are different inside the plane of the substrate.

9. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device according to claim 7, wherein azimuth angles of slanting directions of columnar structures of an inorganic material

constituting both the first and the second oblique evaporation layers differ by nearly 90 degrees.

10. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device according to claim 7, wherein the thickness of the first inorganic oblique evaporation layer is in the range of 5 nm to 16 nm, and the thickness of the second organic oblique evaporation layer is in the range of 10 nm to 40 nm.

11. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device according to claim 7, wherein pre-tilt angle θ_p of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer is in the range of 5 to 15 degrees.

12. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device according to claim 7, wherein the inorganic alignment layers are oblique evaporation layers made of silicon oxide.

13.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A projection display device, provided with a liquid crystal device according to claim 7, comprising:

a light source for emitting light;

the liquid crystal device which modulates the light emitted from the light source; and

a magnifying projection optical system which magnifies the light modulated by the liquid crystal device and projects the light on a projection plane.